by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

(f) The Government helps sugar mills to improve their working by availing of concessional finance from Sugar Development Fund for rehabilitation, modernisation and upgradation of capacity. Upto 30.6.97, 166 sugar mills had been sanctioned loans from Sugar Development Fund amounting to Rs. 609.17 crores. Besides, 355 units were also sanctioned Cane Development Loans amounting to Rs. 485.22 crores.

Statement

S.No.	State	No. of Applications pending
1.	Madhya Pradesh	24
2.	Maharashtra	13
3.	U.P.	73
4.	Punjab	3
5.	Nagaland	1
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1
7.	Tamil Nadu	7
8.	Karnataka	12
9.	Andhra Pradesh	12
10.	Pondicherry	1
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
12.	Haryana	2
	Total	150

Sub-Standard Sugar Diverted to Mumbai for sale in Open Market

494. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Merchant vessel carrying about 1000 tonnes of sub-standard sugar which was rejected by the Lankan authorities was diverted to the Mumbai harbour for unloading its cargo for sale of sugar in the open market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUBANS PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) A consignment of 1335 tonnes of sugar was brought to Mumbai port on MV Natalie on 13.4.1997. The consignment was unloaded from MV Natalie in stream into barge 'Prosper' under customs permission and supervision on 15.5.1997. The barge has been at berth in Prince's Dock from 12.6.97. As per the certificate issued Food and Drug Administration, Government of Maharashtra, the sugar is moist, stick with fermented shell and hence unfit for human consumption. The sugar is still lying loaded on the barge awaiting disposal.

Strengthening the infrastructure of Consumer Courts

495. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had granted financial assistance to the State Governments for strengthening the infrastructure of Consumer Courts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Maharashtra Government could not utilise the allocated fund for this; and

(c) if so, whether State Government has requested Central Government to consider the reallocation of financial assistance for strengthening the infrastructure of Consumer Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUBANS PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Request of the Maharashtra Government regarding